



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 25, 1999

H.R. 1218 **Child Custody Protection Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 23, 1999

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1218 would not result in any significant cost to the federal government. Because enactment of H.R. 1218 could affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the bill. However, CBO estimates that any impact on direct spending and receipts would not be significant. H.R. 1218 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1218 would make it a federal crime to transport a minor across state lines, under certain circumstances, to obtain an abortion without parental notification. Violators would be subject to imprisonment and fines. As a result, the federal government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. CBO expects that any increase in federal costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant, however, because of the small number of cases likely to be involved. Any such additional costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 1218 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in the following year. CBO expects that any additional receipts and direct spending would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.